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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/019,100

08/21/2003

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P24,800-A USA

8648

7590

10/10/2006

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EXAMINER

SOROUGH, LAYLA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1617

DATE MAILED: 10/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/019,100	SAIDI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Layla Soroush	1617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-10 and 12-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-10 and 12-33 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1, 5-10, 12-17, 22-27 drawn to a composition, consisting essentially of: (a) from 5 ug/mL to about 5 mg/mL of a corticosteroid in dissolved form; (b) from about 0.1 to 20 percent by weight of a pharmaceutically acceptable, high-HLB surfactant component, wherein the HLB of the surfactants present in the high HLB surfactant component comprises at least 50% by weight of an ethoxylated derivative of vitamin E; and (c) at least about 70 weight percent aqueous phase.

Group II, claim(s) 18-20, 28-33, drawn to a method for administering a therapeutic dosage of a corticosteroid to the respiratory tract.

Group III, claim(s) 21, drawn to a method for preparing a diluted corticosteroid containing the corticosteroid in a dissolved form.

The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

Groups I, II, and III lack unity because they do not share a common special technical feature. "With respect to a group of inventions claimed in an international application unity of invention exists only when there is a technical relationship among the claimed inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special

technical features. The expression "special technical features" is defined in PCT Rule 13.2 as meaning those features that define a contribution which each of the inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. The determination is made on the contents of the claims as interpreted in light of the description or drawings (if any)." (MPEP 1850 II. Determination of "Unity of Invention"). The special technical feature of Group I is composition, consisting essentially of: (a) from 5 ug/mL to about 5 mg/mL of a corticosteroid in dissolved form; (b) from about 0.1 to 20 percent by weight of a pharmaceutically acceptable, high-HLB surfactant component, wherein the HLB of the surfactants present in the high HLB surfactant component comprises at least 50% by weight of an ethoxylated derivative of vitamin E; and (c) at least about 70 weight percent aqueous phase, while the special feature of Group II is a method for administering a therapeutic dosage of a corticosteroid to the respiratory tract, and the special feature of Group III is a method of preparing a diluted corticosteroid composition containing the corticosteroid in a dissolved form. Prior art teaches a compound comprising a corticosteroid and a high HLB surfactant (castor oil) as stated in Group I, so the composition as claimed is not novel, and therefore, there is a lack in unity (US Pat 4299828 A (see abstract)). Additionally, the search of prior art for a composition will not necessarily lead to a method for administering a therapeutic dosage of a corticosteroid to the respiratory tract nor to a method of preparing a diluted corticosteroid composition. Because the inventions lack unity for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Groups II or III, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

The species are as follows:

An election of a single species of a **corticosteroid**, a single species of a **high HLB surfactant**, a single species of a **high HLB surfactant comprising an ethoxylated derivative of vitamin E**, and a single species of a **low HLB surfactant** is required.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Election

A telephone call to the attorney is not required where: 1) the restriction requirement is complex, 2) the application is being prosecuted pro se, or 3) the examiner knows from past experience that a telephone election will not be made (MPEP

812.01). Since the restriction election is considered complex, a call to the attorney for a telephone election was not made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Layla Soroush whose telephone number is (571)272-5008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreenivasan Padmanabhan, can be reached on (571) 272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

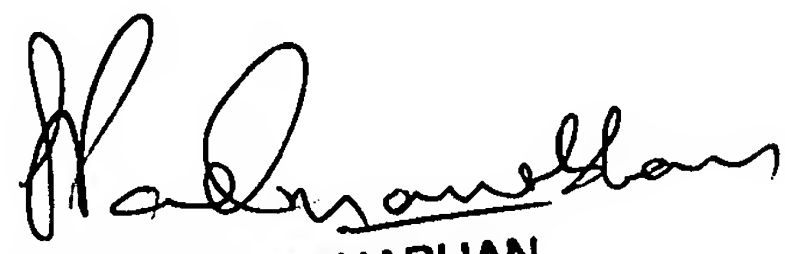
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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



SREENI PADMANABHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER